(d) Two vessels of 19478 DWT were purchased during 1990-91 by Public and Private Sector Shipping Companies.

Curtailment of regular DTC services due to introduction of green line services

2583. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to the refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 974 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd December, 1991, and state:

(a) whether introduction of Green Line Service in DTC has been done after curtailing regular trips of a service of a route offered to Green Line Service;

(b) whether such steps are to make operation of Green Line Service a success; and

(c) if so, the details of steps to be taken to restore curtailed trips of regular services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Road accident near Bombay

2584. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there was a serious accident involving a Tanker on the National High way near Dhanu in Thane District on the outskirts of Bombay recently;

(b) if so, the exact details thereof and how many persons were killed ; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to see that such type of accidents do not take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On 22nd November, 1991 Tanker No. MTT 9168 carrying 14,000 litres of Natural Gasoline Liquid (NGL) belonging to Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. met with an accident in the vicinity of Mondhavan Khind Village in Thane district of Maharashtra State. The NGL was being transported from ONGC Hazira (Gujarat) to Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. at Chembur, Bombay. Due to the accident, the NGL started flowing out. The residents of Mendhavan Khind and nearby villages gathered at the spot to collect the liquid thinking it to be Kerosene. In the meanwhile, a Fiat Car No. BLN 5347 which was passing along the road to Ahmedabad came to a halt near the tanker. While re-starting this car a possible spark from its silencer might have led to the NGL catching fire. So far 85 people have died and 62 are injured. Two private cars and the tanker were burnt.

Transportation by road tankers of flammable liquids coming under the the purview of the Petroleum Rule, 1976 and of compressed gases covered under Static and Mobile Pressure Vessels (unfired) Rules, 1981 is done under licences issues by the Department of Explosives. The petroleum Rules, 1976 indicate the details of specifications of such vehicles and the requirements for their safe operation. Under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the trucks carrying dangerous goods and chemcials are required to be labelled and also to indicate the nature of the goods and casts a responsibility upon the owner to ensure that the driver is given all the relevant information in writing in relation to the dangerous or hazardous goods entrusted to him for transport and to staisfy himself that such driver has sufficient understanding of the nature of such goods and the nature of the risks involved in the trasport of such goods and is capable of taking appropriate action in case of an emergency.

The Oil companies also give training to their contractors and drivers regarding safe carriage of inflammable petroleum products.

Improving National Highway between Bombay and Vapi

2585. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the national highway between Bombay and Vapi is very narrow;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are frequent traffic jams on this highway; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to improve this section of the highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) The existing